



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #42– December 31, 2003

Alert Level Raised to Orange/High, MO HS Director Makes Readiness Suggestions

On December 22, the Nation's Alert Level was raised from Yellow/Elevated to Orange/High over concerns of a possible terrorist strike over the holidays. Missouri's Homeland Security Director, Tim Daniel, offers the following steps to deter terrorist threats and to improve our readiness to address any terrorist event that may occur. Such steps include: (1) review of crisis response plans, contingency plans which may exist to work at an alternate site, and plans to work with a dispersed work force; (2) review of policy and plans relating to restricting access to critical facilities, infrastructure and enhancement of security at critical facilities; (3) implementation of stringent identification procedures for personnel, packages and deliveries, including "hands on" checks of security badges; (4) taking additional precautions at public events to identify and report suspicious activities, packages and people immediately to law enforcement. Be vigilant - Be prepared - Be informed

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE also known as mad cow disease) Facts

Consumers are encouraged to continue eating beef with confidence. A confirmed case of BSE was found in a federally inspected plant in Washington State. The central nervous tissue from this animal, which scientists recognize as the infective material, did not go into the food supply.

The University of Missouri issued the following facts about the safety of U.S. beef:

- The BSE agent is not found in meat like steaks and roasts. It is found in central nervous system tissue such as brain and spinal cord.
- A USDA inspector or veterinarian inspects all U.S. cattle before going to slaughter. Animals with any signs of neurological disorder are tested for BSE.
- BSE affects older cattle, typically over 30 months of age. The vast majority of the cattle going to market in the U.S. are less than 24 months old.
- The U.S. began a surveillance program for BSE in 1990 and was the first country without the disease within its borders to test cattle for the disease. The surveillance system targets all cattle with any signs of neurological disorder as well as those over 30 months of age and animals that are non-ambulatory.
- The U.S. banned imports of cattle and bovine products from countries with BSE beginning in 1989.
- The only way BSE spreads is through contaminated feed. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration in 1997 instituted a ban on feeding ruminant-derived meat and bone meal supplements to cattle. This is a firewall that prevents the spread of BSE to other animals if it were present in the U.S.

For additional information go to www.BSEinfo.org or <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html>

Database Allows Emergency Responders a Chance to Comparison Show

A new online equipment database helps first responders buy terrorism equipment. The website is: <http://www1.rkb.mipt.org>. The nonprofit National Memorial Institute compiles the database for the Prevention of Terrorism, Oklahoma City. It offers information on certifications, standards and testing results for more than 600 anti-terrorism products, from protective equipment to breathing apparatus and vehicles. The idea is to help emergency responders make informed buying choices with federal homeland security grants in 2003 and 2004.

All information listed in this website is independently confirmed before being posted on the site. The site includes two separate lists of products - the Interagency Board's Standardized Equipment List, and the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness Authorized Equipment List.

Missouri Fire Departments Receive Grants

FEMA announced seven Missouri Fire Departments received Fire Grants in Round 27 announcements. Fire Departments receiving grants for Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety were: Arbyrd VFD (\$77,515); Olivette FD (\$56,795); Piece City Rural Fire (\$61,524); Potosi FPD (\$24,677); Spanish Lake FPD (\$146,610); Tipton FD (\$56,228); and Webster Groves FD (\$38,159).

Change in Audit Threshold

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has revised Circular Number A – 133. **Effective for fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003, the audit threshold is increased from \$300,000.00 to \$500,000.00.** This means that jurisdictions expending more than **\$500,000.00** in **FEDERAL** funds (from all Federal sources) during their fiscal year will need to comply with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, regarding auditing of these funds. Additional information is available in the Federal Register Notice published June 27, 2003 (Vol. 168, Number 124, pages 38401 – 38402). If you have questions concerning this change, please call (573) 526 – 9234 and speak with one of the Public Assistance staff.

May Tornadoes Largest Insured Catastrophe in World This Year Worldwide Catastrophic Insurance Losses Hit \$65 Billion by December 17, 2003

The Missouri Department of Insurance submitted the following insurance loss facts based on a December 17, 2003 article in Insurance Day.

Based on a preliminary report by Swiss Re, estimated insured catastrophic losses worldwide amounted to \$65 billion, which is considered as a moderate year for property insurers. As of December 17, human toll for the year is over 20,000 deaths. Sigma's research registered 350 catastrophes for 2003. The report found five North American insurers' losses for the year totaled over \$1 billion. There were no billion-dollar losses in Europe and Asia. In insured terms the most costly insured losses were the May tornadoes and hailstorms in the US Midwest at \$3.2 billion. Hurricane Isabel followed at \$1.7 billion. The US April storms cost \$1.6 billion. The California and associated forest fires came in at a combined cost of \$2.1 billion.

FEMA Supports CPSC Release of Carbon Monoxide Guidelines for First Responders

FEMA and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued new guidelines to help first responders responding to residential carbon monoxide incidents. The new document, titled: Responding to Residential Carbon Monoxide Incidents-Guidelines for Fire and Other Emergency Responders is available at <http://www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/FOIA/FOIA04/os/Resident.pdf>

The new guidelines help responders: (1) ensure their own protection from carbon monoxide when entering an occupancy; (2) confirm whether a carbon monoxide hazard exists; (3) make a preliminary assessment of potential sources of elevated carbon monoxide; (4) give advice to the occupants on how to prepare a home for re-entry; and (5) promote carbon monoxide awareness and safe practices throughout a community.

Crisis Communications Conference Set for Feb 13-14

EMDs and Telecommunicators planning to attend the Communications Conference must register before January 14. The registration form may be faxed to Conference Coordinator Cathy Zumwalt at (573) 634-7966 or mailed to Cathy c/o SEMA, P. O. Box 116, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

This year's conference focuses on Communications Challenges ranging from the May tornadoes, Cyber Security to EAS, and Interoperability. The SEMA sponsored conference is February 13-14. Telecommunicators may also take an 8-hour class on "Violence in School" for continuing credit on the 13th.

There is no conference fee. Lunch on Friday, and a continental breakfast on Saturday will be provided. **However, due to limited funding**, SEMA will not pay lodging expenses. The Communications Conference special room rate is \$73. Call Tan-Tar-A at (573) 348-3131 before January 14 to reserve your room.

Free Terrorism Courses

U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Grants to provide weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and terrorism awareness training for emergency personnel have been approved. Fifteen free courses will be offered in Missouri through Professional Associations, Universities or Colleges.

Following is a list of grant participants who have signed agreements: MO Police Chiefs' Assn.; MO Sheriffs' Assn., MO Deputy Sheriffs' Assn.; MO Fire Fighters' Assn.; Southwest MO State University; University of MO – Columbia; Truman State University; Central MO State University; Southeast MO State University; MO Southern State University; Crowder College; East Central College; Jefferson College; Metropolitan Community Colleges; Mineral Area College; Moberly Area Community College; North Central MO State University; Ozarks Technical College; St. Charles Community College; State Fair Community College; and Three Rivers Community College.

Training courses provided by the ODP grants are: (1) Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts; (2) Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts (Train the Trainer); (3) Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts (Self Study); (4) Managing Civil Actions in Threat Incidents (MCATI) Basic Course (Train the Trainer); (5) Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders (Internet); (6) Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Basic Concepts for WMD Incidents (Internet); (7) Public Works: Basic Concepts for WMD Incidents (Internet); (8) Law Enforcement Response to WMD – Awareness; (9) Law Enforcement Response to WMD – Awareness (Train the Trainer); (10) Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings – Awareness; (11) WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness; (12) WMD Radiological/Nuclear Awareness (Train the Trainer); (13) Emergency Response to Terrorism: Operations Course (Train the Trainer); (14) Campus Law Enforcement Awareness Training on WMD Terrorism; and (15) WMD Crime Scene Management for Emergency Responders

There is no charge or registration fee for these courses. Contact the association or educational institution for a listing of courses and dates offered. Should you have problems or require additional information regarding the grant program, you may e-mail Debbie Cheshire at Debbie.Cheshire@sema.dps.mo.gov.

New SEMA Special Assistants with Homeland Security Grant Programs

Debbie Cheshire (Training and Exercise Programs), **Stephanie Bise** (Administrative Assistant), and **Dennise Schaben** (Senior Office Support Assistant), **Dee Solindas** (Kansas City and St. Louis Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI) and **Ricky Presberry** (Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), Critical Infrastructure Protection Program and UASI support) are special assistants working with the SHSGP in Operations Branch.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!